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**SAINT HELENA
AND OTHER POEMS**

TO REV. ASA DALTON, D.D.

FRIEND of my youth when youth had but begun !
I knew thee ere our city knew thy face.
As child would know, I knew the man whose place
Was in some larger world his worth had won.

A man in world of men, thy world I see
Above the common striving. Let me greet,
In sage's world — whose height is my defeat —
Thyself, companioned by the like of thee.

I make me bold this tribute book to bring,
This overmuch of mingled dross and gold,
To one whose years are all unmixed, one old
In nothing that survives their numbering.



Edward Clarence Farnsworth

SAINT HELENA AND OTHER POEMS

EDWARD CLARENCE FARNSWORTH

11



PORTLAND, ME.
SMITH & SALE

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SAINT HELENA

SAINT HELENA

WRECK ! Wreck ! O helpless wreck,
flood-cast and lone !

O hapless wreck the ruthless reefs do grind !
Abandoned hull ! thy tough and towering masts,
Gale-broken, splintered, gone by the board, no more,
Ah ! never more sustain the mighty spread
Which else would wing thee from this hateful isle,
Bare, rock-upheaval of Earth's prisoned fire,
Mid-ocean's never-liberating keep,
Hell's half shut door not hiding yet the world.
Poor, ruined relic of thy shapely self !
Mere lessening remnant of thy beauty's whole !
I knew thee, weatherer of a hundred storms,
Death-cheater in the midst of foundering fleets,
Immune in battle, leader of the line,
The flagship whose dread cannonade could drown
The sky-born thunders gathered o'er the main.
I knew thee well; none better knew; in truth
Am I thy breaking bulk ; of me, even me
The staunch wave-rider, now the tides make toy.
How warping suns and rotting rains increase
The sad, continual waste from what I was !
From what I was ! Ah yes, from what I was !
But surely more than any ship was I ;
A more than men have fashioned to obey
The helmsman's puny turning ; yet this end
Dulls not one ray, one glory, of that hour

When, all surpassing, rose my star on me.
No lie can smirch the fame of fiery deeds
In face of France and Europe and the world;
No thief can filch Time's goodly recompense,
For when on me falls neither sun nor rain,
And no wild storm disturbs, and not a beam
Of the round moon illumines my hiding, then,
Yes then, unto my rest shall pilgrim far
The Nature-prompted might and manhood born
To loathe the commonplace of little lives.
With voice sunk whisper-ward, and mien subdued,
From hearts of homage reverently they speak;
"Lies here the limit of our fruitful quest;
Our Mecca here, our kneeling shrine! Hark ye!
How clearly is from lips of dust vouchsafed
The sluggard-shaming speech that moves our veins!"

This then is mine though Fortune, traitorous luring
To proud Ambition's giddy summit, there,
Like to the crafty fiend of old, displayed
Earth's waiting kingdoms far and near. How fair
The summer-wooing vales vine-walled around,
The glacier-burdened peaks, the northern steppes,
The bloom of southward field and sky, the ships
And navies anchored and at sea, the streams
That, through historic sites and cities, mirror
The famed bequeathings of the classic age!
The calm of lakes how fair! How fair the rills
That jet and sparkle o'er the rocky brink!
And many a plunging cataract how fair!
And many a trackless gloom of hermit wood,
And many a semi-solitude of shade,
And many a scythe and sickle-waiting glebe,
From Peter's northern capitol to where —

Beyond the continent-dividing flood —
The pyramidal tombs of Nilus raise
Honor perpetual to the sovereign dead.
The sovereign dead ! With scorn and pity, both,
I've chanced on where the rustic clod made green
His low ambition and his final gain,
The earthy mould to which his soul was wed.
Rude-lettered rhyme, uncouth, sufficing, taught
The plodding, plowing villagers the tale,
That vacuous nothing, his poor span of days.
Meanwhile the world he stirred not rolleth on ;
The great, full world all busy by him rolls.
The sovereign dead ! The deathless sovereign dead !
The stern, iron-handed moulders of that clay,
That easy-shapen clay, the usual man !
On Earth's huge round, as on a minted coin,
Their name and likeness long outlasts their years.
Rut-shunners, in new roads their chariot wheels
Strike fire, their horses neigh with joy indeed.
Custom-ignorers, to themselves a law,
Behold in these the pattern of the new !
Prophetic dreamers, time-outstrippers, lo,
In temple, fearless at the very shrine,
They preach offense, a higher, grander truth.
Vessel-breakers they that so the wine of life
In larger, stronger hold may sparkle pure.
War-bringers that untroubled quiet crown
Their rule of subjugated rivalries,
In truth world-overturners they, the means
Of Heaven-ordered change. Their mortal end
Some day leaves vacuum Nature must endure.
In death the lion heart at last is low ;
The sore-bereavèd time up-points the shaft
And graves on sculptured stone immortal deeds.

Oft looking on the limitless, lone sea
Where, solitary one, the fisher bird
Is sinking, soaring, and unfrequent sails
Wing near this rock,— then wholly pass me by,
Mine eyes desire the north invisible
Earth's curving round behind. How far ! How far !
Thou loved, lost land ! How far ! My darling France !
My foster child, than mine own kin more dear !
Orphaned I found thee of thy Bourbon sire
Thou prey of ravishers at home, brute men
Of tiger mood. Meanwhile, with cannon clamour
And brandished steel, vindictively upstood
The alien armies round about thy realm.
'Twas then from nether pit of shame I snatched,
As parent watched and tended, counselled, whom
I saw most statue-like upgrow a queen.
Befitting thine estate, with broken crowns
I jewelled thee ; rich kingdoms were thy dower
O thou impoverished long ! O child so poor !
Lamentest still thy present orphaning ?
Or dost, insensible to loss, forget ?
Or, as the false, palm-strewing multitude,
Art thou ingrate, of fickleness the symbol ?
Not so. Alway, for love of me, thy brave,
As never Roman cohort strove, have striven ;
As never legion for their Cæsar fell,
Have fallen. 'Neath Egypt's cloud-shunned,
pitiless dome
Their life, outpouring, drenched the torrid sands
Where rainless heavens dropped no cooling. Once
Was Nile encrimsoned ; once her banks were strewn.
There, horse and rider, lay the Mameluke
Death-stayed in rout, while down from Cheop's height
His forty centuries were looking. Once,

Ripe rose of Italy's sun-rising ; once,
Sweet rose of her sun-setting, blushed a sod
With richer red than roses wear. Your blood,
O heart-drained liberators of the South !
Nourished, as on your soil of France beloved,
The flower of liberty. Flashed forth one morn,
From out the wintry East, an omen bright,
The rising orb of matchless victory.
Betimes it saw the plight of humbled kings,
The shifting bounds of continental states,
The keen heart-stab at plotting England's hopes,
The dire defeat to Pressburg leading ; whilst
Myself, that saw my hope's ascension bright,
More bright than warring god's good shield, did hail
The sun of Austerlitz. And in reverse —
The which even gods have known — reverse indeed,
Consummate doing of the mischievous fiend
Enkindling, like his hell-abode of flame,
The templed city of the olden Czars ;
Yes, midst the dull despond of baffled men —
Than weary limbs their hearts more heavy-weighted —
Hoping no more a Wagram or a Jena,
A fame in death like these hoping no more ;
Amidst the woe of miles endured was I,
The Emperor, their "Little Corporal" still.

A fadeless vision of the sumptuous East
Filleth my musings with a vain regret ;
The gorgeous East, barbaric splendor bright ;
Voluptuous, wooing, tropic East I knew ;
Enchantment wrapt in radiant, sunny airs ;
The East to burning zeal enkindled all
If touched by some Mohammed heart of flame.
That East awaits the dominating man,

A frenzied urger of a bigot creed,
Or him the tolerant, contained, and mild,
Turning the ponderous wheel of faith. That East
Awaits an Alexander more humane,
The soldiers' idol and the people's love.
Fain would I near the delta of Ganges pile
More costly stone on stone than did Haroun
In Bagdad midst her caleph days of prime.
Perchance a varied glory I'd upraise,
Hoar Karnak's bulk, the growth of dynasties,
Alhambra's grace ere yet her woes befell,
And Corinth's marble beauty tipped and towered
With gold. In orient capitol should blaze
My jewelled throne of Ind, no Tamerlane seat
Of fleeting power. Beside the sacred stream,
At Buddha's shrine of peace, would I revere.
I'd palace near the emptying flood of Nile,
Or, on the Ottoman Sultan's Bosphorus hill,
Behold a more than that Byzantine dome
Justinian lifted o'er Sophia's walls.
Of Islam son, I'd gain her birth-place holy,
A turbaned pilgrim, find the prophet's rest;
The desert hordes enlisted to my will,
Myself, Napoleon, "lion of the desert,"
Would sweep Arabia's waste a whirlwind terror;
Or, 'neath the bannered lion and the sun,
Again I conquer Cyrus' empire old,
Rekindle bright my Persia's Gheber fire;
Or, neutral lord of lands diverse, I blunt,
With smoothing law and act, the bitter spears
Fanatic fools thrust each in other's heart.
Such course, expedient, is Wisdom's way
Since never Faith to certainty attains,
And Error drags at her most heavenward wing.

Grained in its fibre, mingled with its blood,
A nation's legacy of fixed belief,
Proved just and decent, meeteth best its need.
So I to France her church restored, the which
Pretended Reason's goddess, harlot thing,
Had long defamed, insulted and defiled.
Shaming her bestial birth, I did renew
The order of the good Gregorian year.

Again the Infinite, that dwelleth deep —
So saith the sage — at center of our life,
Dilates my being as in other days.
Alexander, Cæsar, Scipio mix in me
Lord of all lands, tri-continental king.
Gibraltar and the Dardanelles I hold ;
I harbor in the Bosphorus my sail ;
The Mediterranean bears my merchant fleets,
The Black and Caspian win my laden hulls ;
The Adriatic woos them on to Venice ;
Marmora bideth to the Russian ports.
Scorning the tedious doubling of the Cape,
Suez I channel that at once they steer
O'er Pharaoh's burial to the Indian sands,
Ceylon, Sumatra, and the island wealth
Of Australasia and Nippon the far.
Himalaya stays not whom no barrier stays.
Huge China, waked from olden lethargy,
Beholdeth me the western-risen sun,
And all men do the axle change behold
Of their so puny-turning, little sphere.
But ah, what discord sudden pains my ear !
It jars upon the rapture of my dream !
It startles from Trafalgar and the Nile !

They rend me England ! rend me evermore,
The iron mouths of thy determined war !
O England ! England ! England ! But for thee
My plans the measure of my deeds had been !
Even when a Titan dazed, dethroned, I lay,
A peasant people then had borne me high ;
A million hearts for me their tide had poured.
But ah, the flood, the deluge unto France !
And I was weary, weary of it all.

There cometh to the king a crownless hour
When slips the sceptre from his hand of clay ;
Nor is he joined to dust ere men do cry,
“ Long live the king ! ” Soon humbled, death-deposed,
Soon sunken to the hungry worm are they
That wrought my fall, that on my ruin gloat.
How goodly seemeth, on the crest of toil,
Ambition’s prize ! At distance but a star,
It groweth soon a world whose rounded vast
Henceforth a thousand orby fires shall hide
Whilst to the climber laudings thus arise ;
“ Star reacher ! King, sky-crowned with starry sheen !
Thine eyes, like stars, the golden night survey.”
A king ! A crown ! What mortal jealousies !
What gilded goal since men would masters be !
What mock of gain ! What woe of heapen ills
The which wise Cæsar, wiser, had refused
Alway ! In power his peer, in wisdom less,
I spurned not once the crown and kingship, sweet,
Of what, through me, should be than Rome more
mighty,
A wider, worthier France than Bourbon ruled,
Girt by the army, our safeguard of peace.

Long, long, O land, thy doom it was to bleed !
From almost death-wounds fell the drops of gore.
But when indeed thy foes were smitten, Peace,
The stauncher of thy cruel loss, appeared.
When soon in thee thy native vigor wrought,
Straightway the warrior in me wholly turned
To that wherefor my righteous arm had striven.
Pacificator of the realms, I hid
In scabbard thy renowned and just defense.
And now, O Fate ! wast thou fair promiser
To this my project dear—a peaceful land,
Model of lands and of the world to be ;
A sober France for all the drunken past ;
Order from riot, revolution sprung ;
Safety upbuilded on the fall of Terror ;
A France of statesmen, orators and soldiers,
Of sailored merchantmen and ships of battle ;
A France of field and farm and vine and olive ;
Resourceful France of thriving towns and cities ;
Just framer of the equitable law ;
Arena of the worthy humble-born ;
Retreat of the mild, meditative sage ;
Patron of Science, of all learning patron ;
Skilled trainer of the skilled in every craft ;
Fountain of Music, fount of mellow song ;
Mother of poet-choosers of that theme,
Wherewith the painter shall achieve his fame,
The empire-building of a hundred camps.
Smiled thus my orby dream, alluring star ;
Smiled thus my sweetly-drawing, planet fate.
Grandly it grew ; a splendour fellowed not
In heaven's high-over-hanging hemisphere.
How soon did Envy, spying Envy mark !
The shameful envy of the rival stars !

Woe! woe! This hope's defeat ! This dire downhurl !
This far, sea-banished rock of wretchedness !
This ending of a King from whose high seat
A throne-debaser truckles to the mob !

The scholar, curious, busy with the past,
In long succession views the affairs of men,
The fortunes and calamities that fell
From Adam unto Noah, and from thence.
Thereon the calm discerner, he the wise,
Deep-pondering, a helpful lesson finds.
But if the maker of events, the mighty,
Must idle though their crisis bids him on,
Sitteth he patient, like who choose no part,
When lo, the world he guided flies the mark ?
How like the sun, that scorned the level East,
Man lessens from the summit of his day !
High-risen, is abased at length a nation,
At last to utter lack a royal line.
Wise Nature's choice is he whose dynasty,
Being new, nears not its Nature-destined end.
The choice of France were he, if choice were left,
Yes, he whose brow the symbol did upbear
Of western empire, even the iron crown
Of Charlemagne and ancient Lombardy.
To rid a monarchy of weak misrule ;
To sweep from Europe Bourbon's base regime ;
To found instead, and otherwhere if best,
A rising rule of kings unworn, blood-bound
To me and my transmitted blood, a rule
Heart-bound to my heart-hopes, a rule spirit-bound
Unto my master spirit, was my plan.
For this, and that I shew whence Kings could spring,
Was I the wrath of crowned incapables,

A thieving Corsican, my theft a throne ;
A world-enkindling, world-despoiling thief
Was I. Forthwith our neighbour of the isles,
Our treaty-breaker, foe of France and me,
Deep-plunged the continent in general broil
By English craft and English gold renewed
From Amiens onward. Spite, thus thwarting one
From humble even unto highest risen,
Blunted of other rise the spur, and so
Back-turning Europe woos again the night.

Let "Holy Alliance," let all darkened wits,
Reverting to the ages dark, uphold
The right divine of senile kings and lords
'Gainst one, the choice of millions fit to choose,
And every worthy that would dare aspire.
Arisen yesterday, whipped down to-day,
Men, on some goodly morrow, gain the heights
And in their rise avenge my overthrow.
Princes of Europe ! Autocrats of thrones !
Quake, quake at mutter of the tongues I loosed !
The people speak ! The people ! Soon doth clamor
The public voice of harsh and stern command.
No serf, in gaging Russia's realm, so mute
But, long-enduring, freeth yet his tongue.
Your ebbing rule, O Princes ! turneth not ;
With all that hateful tide the shores are done.
The people ! Ah, the people ! In their hearts
A hidden spark that Freedom's breath is fanning.
Red as the Jacobin's wrath it flares ; it leaps,
Whirling ignition to the winds of Earth.
Concede, O kings ! If suddenly wise concede !
If brute self-interest rule, concede ! Concede !

Hark ! On mine exile breaks the noise of arms ;
It will not back from these incongruous days.
Look ! look ! on yonder far-outspredding look !
My gathered legions meet the allied host.
Proudly the front deploys ; how brave its menace !
Each straining ear awaits the signal gun.
A dreadful calm ! A death-still moment ! Now
The sudden, thrilling boom of dread command.
Instant doth reel this tower, this iron cliff,
With hideous roar of hundred-fold reply.
Instant all eyes, all brain, all quick resolve,
I stand, of Jovian war imperious chief ;
My messengers on thousand missions fly.
On, on, battalions ! On, tall grenadiers !
Lead on, Murat, your headlong cavalry !
On, on, manœuvring horse and foot ! On, Ney !
Pierce yonder right ! Maim all its fair outspread !
Make din artillery-men with matches lit !
Dismount along yon crest the harrying guns
That stay with heaping slain, the brave advance !
On, Soult ! Turn, turn the left ! Mow down its pride !
Let sword be sickle in this harvest hour !
Break forth, Drouet ! On the gained flank break forth !
Tear every column with a cannon pour !
Grind, grind its bleeding in the shameful dust !
Charge now the center ; fearless Lannes, charge !
Smite ! smite ! you fury ! smite the wavering mass !
Cut off, cut off retreat O Berthier !
Let lance and sabre, sword and volleying arms,
Hurl back the ruin of the vanquished rear !
Marshals of France, my heart approves you all ;
And every French death-wooer. Praise to you
Men of the South, for whom I crossed the Po,
And you my Swiss, free-born amidst your peaks,

You patriot Poles, your land remembering,
Confederates of the Rhine, and many a friend
Of sweetest vengeance, joined unto our cause,
Your grievance brought to this just, reckoning hour.
'T is done ! The prisoned foe bereft of succor !
Hell's withering torment walls him every side,
And all our batteries feed the dreaded flame.
England, whose bulky spread is round the world,
In little hollow of my hand I 'll crush.
Back, Prussia ! get thee back to Brandenburg !
Henceforth a palsied death in life bemoan !
Austria, remember Italy ! Bernard !
With weightier avalanche than leaves his crest,
I whelm thee more than on the Piedmont plain.
Russia, forego that dream of Ind ! Thy crown
Is forfeit ; aye, thy very name unspoke
In the new Europe that from this doth rise.
Alas ! alas ! what sense-defrauding show !
What wild extravagance of hopeful dream !
Yon smoky war, an empty sea-mist clearing,
Reveals but lapping of the humbled waves,
And me a broken, humbled, useless man
In the vast, circling solitude alone.
Shrinks North mine empire from the inquisitor's
shame ;
It yields the Spanish Bourbon and the priest,
The southward look from crest of Pyrenees.
Belgium is lost me and the seaward Rhine ;
Holland the maritime, her every sailor.
Retreats my sovereignty o'er the Alps I scaled
What time, with mighty project's instant act,
I brake the Austrian, the Hapsburg yoke.
How ingrate Milan thrusts my sceptre back !
She, once a patriot hailer of its rule

Beyond the palace of the Papal See,
Of Lodi and Rivoli soon forgets.
To Naples are my glittering triumphs cold,
Duller than smoking of her indolent peak.
Divorced from fickle Genoa am I ;
Marengo joyeth not her heart of change.
What weighs it that in Venice I made cease
The doge, the council, and the tyrant years ?
All Italy is thankless to my sword.
The mark of thunderous war, my smitten crown
Lies twisted, broken, on the Elba-ward shore ;
The shredded clothing of my proper state,
Stripped clean at Waterloo, doth leave alas !
This jailor's scorn, this utter nakedness.

When, often, to my practiced eye, the beam
Of balanced fight adversely leaned, myself,
A saving weight, into the van I hurled.
Around, at hand-touch, Death my brave would crown
With glory ample, spotless. As for me,
In vain the cannon hurl, the musket volley,
The edged and pointed rage of charging war !
Men deemed it rashness, folly. Never I
Who, filled with sweet foreknowledge of my rise,
Believed an angel's interposing wings
Turned either side the bolt, the rending iron,
The gashing and the prodding steel. So Fate,
Kind-seeming, though on sore unkindness bent,
Refused me battle death to lure the more
Toward that revealing which transformed my shield
From helping Heaven into plotting Hell.
Ah, when some foe-encompassed ancient, fallen
Saul-like upon his once-redoubted sword,
Did cheat the conqueror of a captive king,

Held honorable, in honored grave he slept.
How little doth philosophy inform
The soldier fit for hot and headlong war !
Soldier-philosopher somewhat am I
Self-murder shunning as not ease of woe.
Soldier-philosopher henceforth the more,
From out the wisdom-schools of Greece I 'll choose
Firm Zeno for my comfortable stay.
To what grave limit I disturbed the law,
And who disturbs not? — none being just save God —
Let me its keen rebound unmurmuring bear,
This rock my expiating altar be !

Ah, 't is not in the winning of a fight !
Ah, 't is not in the blazoning of a name !
Ah, 't is not in the mounting of a throne !
Nor in the founding of a stable line !
That lofty kings have most of happiness ;
That earth-wide human happiness which seeks
The serf king-ridden, miserably poor.
Lo, when the worn campaigner's work was done,
And quenched the bivouac fire by whose torch
Remembrance made my dreams a sad farewell,
Thou, who thy lighter days didst well redeem,
Heart-winner ! Empress ! Josephine ! With thee,
Shut from the noisy mouthing of my fame,
I lived my life's one pure felicity.
Down-looking from thy sorrow's ease forgive !
Enduring, loyal heart ; forgetting not
Forgive ! Forgive ! When bears the humble wife
Unto her peasant lord the inheritor
Of his few acres, meed of bliss is hers
Denied thee, once of palace and of court
The queenly grace, and of all women envy.

What use Ambition's triumph over love?
Of what avail its sacrifice of thee?
Fortune derides me with a throneless heir
Whom foes would teach to scorn his father's name.
As for that other, level was her way.
Never from prison unto throne upclimbing,
Her feet are timid at the downward steep
Low-ending here. Nor could she, choosing, come
Whose walk is measured by a golden chain.

Come then my Zeno! Stoic wisdom, come!
Such weak complaining shames the soldier's breast.
Come, make me iron on this rigid base
Where thwarted Ocean raves along the cliff,
Or mourns this lifted rock, his lost domain!
Let then the vexing storm forsake the deep
To drive on me the drenching rain. Let chill
Discomfort of the salty fogs enwrap;
The tropic sun from high meridian pour.
Unheeded let my guards patrol me round,
And spies infest my rightful privacy,
And coward Insult more audacious grow,
The hairs of my shorn strength remembering!
And thou, whose trust-betrayal caged a king;
Let all the cordon of thine English sail
Make hopeless of deliverance the sea.
I would be hardened save to gratitude
That melts me at love's test, beloved! in you
Self-exiled sharers of my banishment.
Where throng they now who sunned them in my noon
And fawned and flattered till the even hour?
Housed 'neath some roof convenient by, the dark
They shun, the barren where, O proven few!
Mistaking, ye would stay my soul's release.

Full soon your parting deed, your parting word ;
Full soon your parting sorrow, earliest tear
That soft betokeneth a general grief
When many know me as yourselves have known.
Full soon the circling ocean hems my sleep
In shadows lone of yonder hermit vale
That stills at last the solemn bell of old
Awaking yet my childhood years in me.
There must my ashes wait a juster day,
Interment honor 'neath some ample dome
Of my great capitol, its millions thronging
To solemn, sad commemoration. Then
The times pulse by me ; noble times I pray,
To words and deeds of noble men attuned.
Safe-gathered to the heart of France I rest ;
Impetuous heart, toward friends with ardor burning,
On foes it rains a fierce, volcanic fire.
O, human-throbbing heart that treasures yet
The sacred dust of Clovis ! bosom thou
Alway, death-remnant of thy latest love !

I see the army in a vast review ;
The army marshalled from their worthy sleep ;
Caparisoned and plumed in soldier wise,
The army, gallant horse and sturdy foot.
The shouldered muskets flash a myriad points
Of bayonet steel ; the hero's blade is bare ;
The bloody, shredded flags are proudly borne ;
From balcony and roof and every height,
Our brave tricolor opens on the wind
That brings the acclaim of countless multitudes.
The battle lingers in the warrior's eye ;
The bugles flare the fiery notes of yore ;
The drums are throbbing with the long ago.

Heroic marches of our old campaigns,
Arousing rhythms, wake me from my rest.
Soldiers, this day an audience ! This day—
Your own — of open hearts and open door,
An audience ! In mausoleum fit,
In palace-tomb, all marble-throned I wait.
Draw near, my comrades ! Close around me gather !
Recount the glories of our mutual years !
Come you, the humblest, better than the proud
Ambassadors of haughty kings ! Salute
Your General ! your Emperor ! Believe
His eye yet looketh and his voice inspires
When France is ringing with a call to war !

OTHER POEMS

OLD GLORY AT THE POLE

IN thawless regions of untrodden snow
The North, forbidding, stern, has builded well,
Behind the ice-walls and the riven floe,
His kingdom's long-enduring citadel.

Not any creature of the earth or sea
Would dare the rigor of his central hold
In darkness hid till barren seedtime be,
And scorned of summer whose low sun is cold.

The sky is empty of the wandering wings
That shun instinctively the journey lone ;
The air is joyless, for the vocal springs
Are bubbling music in a softer zone.

What snare ! What fall ! What mystery of fate !
Of frost and famine ah, what lingering pain
Bestrew the highways to the outmost gate
Of that unreachable man seeks in vain !

What ! seeks in vain ? Where Earth on pivot turns,
The moveless axle of its motion vast,
Is fixed a banner, and above it burns
Polaris in the Arctic heavens fast.

O banner, thwarted oft, determined still !
One sharpest struggle and behold, 't was done,
The deed of fervor and triumphant will
Whereby the searching Centuries have won.

O starry sovereign in that northmost land !
Upon thy triumph stars have shone ere now ;
Thy staff is set on many a tropic strand ;
And alien peoples to our symbol bow.

Surmount the terrors of Antarctic seas !
O'er berg and glacier gain the crowning goal
Well-guarded as the old Hesperides !
Unfurl thy glory at the nether pole !

REGRET

WITH apple bloom the trees were white,
But summer now fulfills the hope of spring ;
The years, how have they taken flight !
For years are numbered since that blossoming.

A memory shapes before my eyes,
One blossom, sweetest of that roofing sweet,
And I a-reach for flowery prize
When thou, so near, wast sweetness all complete.

Ah, had I known ! Ah, had I known !
Self-doomed to haunt the shades, of thee bereft,
I mourn indeed those moments flown ;
I grieve that in my culling thou wast left.

Then to yon cottage, once thy home,
I turn as Moslem will at muezzin turn.
What spacious temple, what high dome,
Can so compel me, and my heart concern ?

Yonder my temple, dome, and shrine ;
And on its walls a face whose like I keep
Fadeless and faultless in me ; thine,
Yes thine ! my dream in waking and in sleep.

This much of thee, while life shall last,
Wrests from another nothing of his right ;
I paint me pictures of the past,
Dear household pictures round thy presence bright.

My loss, I paint it evermore
With brush rich-dyed in every joy I miss.
I frame thee eager at our door
To end my absence with a wifely kiss.

I paint, in beauty at thy side,
A child that should in all resemble thee.
Caressing her with parent pride,
I know my fondness stirs not jealousy.

Thou hast of gentle gifts the range.
A very woman fit for every test,
Thou keepest faith though others change.
All this in thee had made my living blest

Had I but known ! Had I but known !
Self-doomed to haunt the shades of thee bereft
I mourn indeed those moments flown ;
I grieve that in my culling thou wast left.

SUMMER AND THE BIRD

SONG and blossom-scented breath of May,
Sweets of yonder bough, the breezes bring ;
Breezes that bestrew the grassy way,
White and fragrant with their scattering.

Summer, thralled by one I joy to hear,
Will her wonted term no more await.
Wooing, winning bird ! to hold her near,
Every wood-note, thine, reiterate.

When shall bloom this valley round her feet,
Morning bids thee splash the pebbly rills ;
Noon persuades thee to some dim retreat,
Twilight calls to where the fountain spills :

Night winds cradle soft the birdling's rest
Thou hast woven in love's favoring tree ;
Moons, unshadowed, gild the roofing crest ;
Stars, auspicious, look all tenderly.

When to Summer palls thy liquid spell,
Then, deserted midst the wan leaves' fall,
Thou in heart free song dissemblest well
Lest thy loneliness appear to all.

BIRDIE

EVERY latest leaf has gone,
And the South has bid you on.
Birdie, by the wooded walk,
In the branching maple's fork,
Hangs an empty nest.

Many times a pauser here
Just to catch your morning cheer,
Well enough I knew that nigh,
Somewhere, somewhere, O you sly !
Lay your hidden home.

At my feet a broken shell
Doth to-day a secret tell.
Birdie, not for me were flung,
Not for me, the notes that sprung
From your heart of joy.

All that singing in the sun,
All that pleasing, was for one
Who, so careful of her brood,
Chose the safer solitude
Of the gloomiest tree.

Birdie, 'neath a roofing palm
Shape the dwelling hid from harm !
Should the passer in his pride
Think for him your notes are tried,
Let him learn as I !

THE SKYLARK

UP from the prisoning gloom of night,
Yon tiny bird the air doth smite;
Attains he ever in the height
Though broad wings fail in weaker flight.

Where far the dome of morn grows bright,
He dwindles from the straining sight.
Hark! midst the utmost film of white,
To earth and heaven he pours delight!

THE SECRET

JUST behind the curtain, by the new leaves
made,
Hides the secret, newest secret of the shade.
Fairer, fairer is it than the summer hue
Fairest June outspreads above ; her daily blue.

Ah, the blue shall brighten nevermore the nest
Now a swinging, gently swinging, now at rest.
Little mouths are open, little throats complain ;
Mother, mother, careful mother, come again !

“ Chooseth she to linger ? Whither would she
fly ? ”

Peace, you birdlings, hungry birdlings, she is by !
Quick I drop the curtain ; quicker her alarm.
Timid, timid, think you I would do them harm ?

A SONG OF JOY

LITTLE bird, little bird that I hear ;
What a grief you have told !
From the heart of the thicket appear,
For the shadows are cold !

Comes a joy with the morning's increase,
And the sky brightens o'er.
Bid the night-fostered sadness to cease
From your throat evermore.

Shun the grove lest it burden your lay !
Let no heaviness be !
Spread your wings for the fields, and away
To the sun-favored tree !

Looking thence, on the open, repine
Through no profitless hour !
There the clover distilleth its wine,
And the weed beareth flower.

There the daisy and buttercup spring,
And the rose is a fire
New-enkindled, a love-lighted thing
Long the season's desire.

There the hawthorn bloomed sweet by the well,
Overhanging the brink,
Till the May-joying white of it fell
Where the wild creatures drink.

Lo, the violet, freshening in dew
Till the sun fills her eye,
Hath a boon from the favoring blue,
From the deep of the sky !

And the bee in his round goeth gay,
As he toils and he feeds ;
And the winds through the meadows, at play,
Float the feather-like seeds.

And the grasses are rank from the rain
Whence the fountains are fed.
Soon the corn growtheth up and is grain,
Or the wheat in its stead ;

And the apple is shaped from the blow
That it redden and fall,
And the yield of the vineyard shall glow
By the blast-breaking wall.

Through such days, every moment a joy,
Are the Earth's doings done.
Learn her praise that it be your employ
As her good helping one !

Bringing cheer to your new-gotten seat,
All the faith in you bring
Though repiners their doubtings repeat
Where the night shadows cling !

MAY-TIME

B RINGING, bringing to the boughs a singing,
Cometh bright the May.

Springing, springing, flowers, her own, are flinging
Odors down the way.

Lead us to the sunny glade,
And the borders of the shade !

Lead us to the piney wood,
And the whispering solitude !

Never rose a fitter day ;
Onward lead us, Onward, May !

Peeping, peeping from the vines low-creeping,
Greet us pink and white !

Leaping, leaping, streamlet never sleeping,
Dance a measure light !

Merry brook and blossomed sweet,
One will prove your joy a cheat
When his throat of music mild
Wakes the sadness of the wild.

Listening to the gentle lay,
Thou shalt sorrow, tender May.

SOUL MATING

L IKE some resplendent star
That cheers the bosom of the lonely sea,
Thy faithful soul from far
A joy has brought, a happiness, to me.

O lavish star and soul !
Unstinted givers of your light and love !
What though the years onroll !
True love endures, and so the light above.

Ere ever stars obeyed,
Or ocean waited for the welcome shine,
Creation's law was made ;
That sweet compelling which doth hold thee
mine.

Love was thy guide O star !
It drew and bound thee to the waiting deep.
Thou soul ! not any bar
Could from its own thy destined being keep.

YOUR EYES

WOULD I behold where falls the purest light
 Of orbs unequalled in the cloudless night,
I leave the morning West, the evening skies,
And turn, a lover, to your tender eyes
That catch a beam of some celestial star,
Beyond my seeing, in the deeps afar ;
A hint of beauty dwelling in God's mind ;
An urge of something that the soul should find.

MY MORNING-TIME

MY morning-time, again your skies are flushing;
My sun of life, your earliest light appears.

Upon its rays remembered scenes come rushing
That fail me never through the after years.

The after years, the after years,
The heaven-appointed after years.

From this, my window, all the vision meets me;

Beneath my childhood's roof is glimpsed again
The bygone yester. In each room it greets me
As long I linger at the magic pane.

The magic pane, the magic pane,
The well-revealing magic pane.

Yon darksome clouds were only half a sorrow;
As now appearing, ever have they been.

A hue of glory each did rightly borrow
From some sweet neighboring joy, its helpful kin.
Its helpful kin, its helpful kin,
Its heaven-begotten helpful kin.

My heart is quickened to a springtime measure,
A pulse and rhythm loved and learned of old.

My song is lifted to the gifts I treasure;
High heavens-outpouring from her wealth of gold.
Her wealth of gold, her wealth of gold,
Her never-failing wealth of gold.

Shine father, mother, framed in this good dawning!
Shine sister, brother, in this rising bright!

Shine youth, our guest! Again it is the morning
When we were thine, and thou our young delight.
Our young delight, our young delight,
Our never-aging young delight.

CHOPIN AT THE PIANO

HE sees the sun-kissed lily, and, beside,
Unwooed of day, the night-flower's
modest bloom.

He sees the orange spray upon the bride,
And ah, the wreathed farewell within the
tomb.

He hears the mating call at flush of spring,
The grieving of the grove-hid hermit bird,
The tree-top anthem, pines a whispering,
And thunder's awsome inarticulate word.

Hoarse ocean's wrath doth cadence to a sigh ;
Sweet, wildly sweet, the themes of brook
and fall ;
In rocky bed the torrent hurleth by ;
Loud seas are booming on the barrier wall,

And Poland, thou dost lend thy heart-com-
plain ;
But now, torn prey of foes, is voiced that
time
When soldier-kings did valorously sustain
The broad dominion of thy vanquished
prime.

Revives, in palace hall, the festal day,
The stately dancing of the king-led high ;
Returns, 'neath peasant roof, the lissom sway,
The grace, untaught, wherewith no art can
vie.

Again, again the bitter mastering grief !
Lost battle, and the unachieving brave,
Prompt requiem, and those drops of heart-relief
The patriot pours upon his country's grave.

What change ! What wizard change ! In
turn supreme,
Each mood the player conjures from his soul
Till all the gamut sings the poet dream
Wherein he liveth years of joy and dole.

BERCEUSE

THOU seest, child, the cherub wings
So near I almost see.

Kind Heaven unto thy slumber sings,
Nor quite denies to me.

Dream on that dream-compelling song
Star-born as song can be;
An earthward message from the throng
That choirs eternally.

The rapt, resounding notes grow mild,
In passage down the deep,
Till hovering guardians voice, my child,
A whisper to thy sleep.

What brook had e'er that silvery purl?
What breeze that sweet complaint?
What harp such wildering, fairy whirl?
What bird such love-restraint?

Thou, Chopin, for an hour made young,
Didst catch the whisper clear.
Heaven's inmost, to the man unsung,
The child in thee could hear.

THE SEA PROWLER

LOOK, lurking in the merchant ways a sail !
 'Tis she, the terror of the traveled main !
Not ever from her deck a cheery hail
 Greeteth the passer. No ! her masts will strain
With keen pursuing should the prey appear.
 And then a flash, the cannon's harsh command,
The stern defiance and the scorn of fear,
 The high heart-purpose of the little band,
Unmentioned heroes of the losing fray
 Whose witness is the writing angel. Lo,
The page awaits that one supremest day
 Wherein the nations shall its brightness know,
For then the records of the world are writ,
And Justice on her judgment seat doth sit.

LEVIATHAN

PROUD monarch throned upon the proudest wave
Afar they sweep those liquid realms of thine.
The caverned Sea reveals her grandest cave
Beaming with treasure of her richest mine;
But thou wilt not the wall, the roof, though kings
Believe a palace in a prison fair,
And have their joy in such alluring things
As gild thy passage to the doméd air.
Leviathan; the world above thy birth,
Finding the waters in that natal hour,
Thy need fulfilled with vital breath whose dearth
Would prove the ending of thy prime of power.
To some anointed, crowned, acclaimed as king,
That fate befell amidst their honoring.

THE HARPER

PURE as yon planet of the golden eve,
Is every haunting measure, harper fair,
Gold-crowned with wealth and glory of thy hair.
A soulful, rapt Cecilia, wholly leave
The downward gazing thou who dost perceive,
In thy star-search, the twilight realms of blue
Whereof thine eyes have caught the deepening hue.
Find, for this pensive hour, the notes that grieve,
The plaintive chords thy fingers deft should weave.
Forget the joy of sun-enlightened day,
The joy turned sadness at the dying beam,
Or sound the music of some far away
More restful sweet than any waking theme,
And harking, hearing, we indeed shall dream.

MARGUERITE IN THE GARDEN

BEHOLD, his face is imaged on the deep,
The limpid calm, the yet unsounded sea,
That till this hour thy bosom hid from thee.
Ah, which is better, to rejoice, or weep?
Ah, which is loss, to wholly lose, or keep?
Kind seems the hand from whence these flowers,
and he

These jewels left that maid so fair might be
Even more fair. Pray what shall Hope yet reap
From this, and one sweet, courteous look and
word?

He comes ! Be still O heart so newly stirred !
He speaks ! Be virgin-mannered modest maid !
He woos ! Now is thy spinning all forgot,
And Love's first garden, and the twilight shade
Of Eden, grow around what Love has wrought.

How ill-companied thou, O Faust, to-night !
Stands yon thy master with a friendship feigned.
Alas the woman ! Her pure heart is pained
Lest love prove faithless lust that shuns the light,
And brings unto her paradise its blight.

Stoop, stoop and crawl, O presence unexplained !
She thus should know thee serpent. Leave
ungained

Thy demon quest, and hellward take thy flight !
Behold, her soul of faith, thy scorn, false one !
Thy servant's plaything now, shall yet defy
Thine utmost, and, though seemingly undone,
In death's strong moment find the farthest sky.
Therefrom her angel influence shall go
To lift her lover from the final woe.

ON READING THE SECOND PART OF GOETHE'S FAUST

BY Love uplifted, knowledge shall in thee
Attain to Wisdom, leaven of thy days.
Abide ! God's purpose bids thee here abide
Till, free amidst the flowery snares of earth,
Thou loapest all that bound thy lustful heart.

Again, O Faust, the tempter and the toil !
Again enticement by the fiend devised !
Behold her ! Helen conjured from the years,
The Grecian years, the memorable past !

O joy ! O marvel ! Final, full escape !
The artist and the poet, inly born,
Fulfill with purer sight thine eyes, thy thought
With Love's first prompting pure, thy lofty dreams
With goal most lofty, all-inclusive Love.
Because in thee is Wisdom Love-inspired,
Thou slippest daily from the grasp of one
Deeming that more he knows whom less he knows
With every bounty by his guile bestowed.
Stranger to Wisdom since from Heaven he turned,
Both love and lust confounds he evermore ;
To him both rule and station prompt man's pride,
Occasion moves indeed the grasping hand,
And covetous heart, and all that makes for Hell.

Hail ! man of noble aim approved of eyes
Immortal ! Hail ! thou philanthropic wise !
Thy years, a hundred, quench the glance abroad
On every benefaction of thine age,
But Time wide-opens now the clearer eye

Deed-searching to the very real of life.
Hail ! Hail ! for whom the welcoming portals turn !
Hail ! Hail ! thou welcomed of the choiring host !
Hail ! Hail ! Great Love attained, even Gretchen, draws
Attainéd Wisdom to herself, while he
The Fiend, twice-cheated of his demon end,
To Heaven has lost the plotted gain of Hell.

TO BLANCHE

O LET me strive, for dear Love's sake,
To touch thy heart's most hidden string !
And music, hushed before, shall wake
Obedient to my summoning.

O let me, sweet, thine eyes explore,
Or lose me in their bluest deep !
Renouncing freedom evermore,
My soul doth crave such prison keep.

O let me, bending o'er thy head,
With ardent fingers touch thy hair !
Or let my eager palms, instead,
Caress its wealth, a wavy snare !

O let me press thy cheek's ripe rose
A-bloom beside the lily's white !
Because the lily chastely blows,
The other gives a warm delight.

O let me dream, beholding thee,
Of bashful kisses on thy brow !
Or let the waking rapture be
Of lips so near they meet somehow !

And Love, in sudden transport dumb,
Needs not one word, one tender phrase,
To crown the perfect moment come,
Foretelling all the blissful days.

THE TEMPLE AND THE CHRIST

FROM His bright throne descending, as
from yon central sphere,
The long-foretold fulfilling, the Master shall
appear.
His message, His revealing, the Truth where-
with He came,
Whose inner word, withholden, His lips shall
later frame.

The mortal birth transcending, the garden and
the cross,
Doom-shadowed Rome behind Him, and all a
people's loss,
The Temple veil asunder, the very shrine
profaned,
The walls and roof a ruin, the place thereof
blood-stained,

Jerusalem down-trodden, the tribes dispersed
afar,
Proud Judah's ancient glory a dead and sunken
star,
He bids a world-wide nation attain the higher
way.
Arise, His later seeking, and greet the larger
day !

And hath He not a temple upbuilding through
all time?
Before historic ages, back in the world's young
prime,

Its walls were based on service, on duty man
to man,
And love to all beneath him in Love's embrac-
ing plan.

In mass and strength and beauty, the lifted pile
doth grow

With never noise of shaping, nor jar of hammer
blow.

Bring not the gold of Ophar, not what the
world doth count !

Bring not the fir, the olive, the cedar from the
mount !

But bring yourselves, O brothers ! as men before
have brought,

And bring that sacrificing wherewith the builders
wrought

Who fashioned and who fitted how oft with
martyr's hand !

And with their blood cemented that so the
building stand.

Upon its daily growing Shekinah pours His
light,

The Silent Watcher looketh whose Unit Ray
is white.

In turn the "Sacred Seven," their nightly
journey through,

And every distant Center, looks from the deep-
ening blue.

Hid in the outer pillars, the Temple records
bide,

By master-workmen written, and fellow-crafts
beside.

The secret Name is blazing within an upper room,
Jerusalem prepares her to greet the heavenly Groom.

Behind the Temple curtain is syllabled the Word ;
The three-fold veil is parting, and mysteries are heard
By ears one day made ready, at length by all ;
and then
The Truth is to the nations, the brotherhood of men.

THE PRODIGAL SON

WITHIN the many-mansioned house on high—
The Father visible, His table spread,
And all in common—one did choose, instead,
The life self-love, the self-deceived, would try,
The sapping pleasures of this world awry
In Truth's appointed orbit. Downward sped,
Self-guided seeker, now his feet are led
Far as the farthest of the lands which lie
Beneath the glory of the sleepless eye.

Dread famine and the pinch of want are there.

Bankrupt of substance as the fruitless ground,
Must he, the great King's son, Creation's heir,
Self-bound to beasts unclean, forego the
grain,
And, with the husks of Wisdom, ease his
pain.

Self-parted from thy source art thou, O son,
In whose own hand is held the chastening rod !
Look up, companion of the vilest clod !
Looking, thine empty wandering is done
For looking is the heart-return begun.

Knowest the ladder by the angels trod
In bright ascension to the throne of God ?
E'en such the lifting rungs thy feet have won.

Seest the Father? Seeing, ere thy sight,
He hurries, bringing, from his open door,
Embrace and kiss the double pledge of yore.

“These shoes thy strength, this robe thy
princely power,
This ring, my child, reunion from this hour,
Come! feast on Wisdom ! 'Tis thy heavenly right.”

THE MARRIAGE AT CANA

HOW deep the wine of earthly passion stains
Man's life, pure-flowing from the heavenly
spring,

Till he, God's vessel, seems a common thing
More carnal grown with every cup he drains.

'Tis marriage feast, but ah, its mid-hour wanes !

"They have no wine" the Mother Mary spake,
Whereat the Master, for the people's sake,
Foreshowing that to which mankind attains,

"Fill now the vessels even to the brim !"

"Draw out and serve the governor of the feast!"

'Tis passion purged, transformed to love by Him,
They drink at Cana even to the least.

Ah, rosy wine, the people thirst in vain !

Delayest yet until the worse they drain ?

TRUE RICHES

“Sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.”

THE dross of earthly nature men will choose
Though heavenly treasure wait at reach of hand.
The little held, the larger grasp they lose,
And in the eye of Wisdom empty stand.
“Transmute thy wealth to what, outvaluing dross,
By heaven’s divinest alchemy is gold
Which given, thou in nothing knowest loss
Since all the heights repay thee. Be enrolled
With those high, humble ones, those followers mine
Dispensing substance and receiving power.
Then are the poor enriched and, law divine,
Thyself acquirest in that mutual hour.
Shunning my path, or in it turning back,
With all thy having thou dost one thing lack.”

LIGHT

“And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.”

O LOVE! O Light! O Word-begotten Sun!
Thou vibrant Word to orbs that in their course
Sound back thy giving to its parent source
As Memnon singing at the morn begun,
Or Rishi lifting, when the dark is done,
His heart-orison to the greater Heart.
Is there that loveth? He in Love hath part;
In Light he lives for Love and Light are one.

Beats there a heart where naught of Love abides?
The fiend, self-blinded, o'er that night presides
Though Love stand knocking, knocking, and should
say,
“I am in thee; thou art in me.” Alas!
Man's mortal self Love-Light can never pass!
That wall of gloom withstands the shining day.

THE TEN VIRGINS

THE oil of love enkindled in the heart,
They go, the wise and foolish, every one.
Since love of self is but love's poorer part,
It dulls and fades till fools are all undone.
Ah, when the Bridegroom comes, how can they borrow
Seeing the wise have only what they ought?
'Tis midnight, and no sign foretells the morrow;
Hence, fools, and buy such oil as can be bought!
Vain purchase in whose plenty is decrease!
Vain journey, and vain knocking at the door!
Folly doth enter never into peace;
Her lamps, renewed, burn lurid as before.
When to her heavenly Groom the soul aspires,
Love's purest oil must feed the nuptial fires.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

FROM Salem, city of his soul's defense,
The holy city round about his days,
One journeyed till the fiends of recompense
Did rob and rend him in the dangerous ways.
Self-righteousness in priestly garb passed by,
Likewise the Levite, on the other side.
Holding it just that broken there he lie,
They shewed no mercy, and its law denied.
From David's city coming not, there came
One deemed a sinner, yet a man withal.
"Brother, whose human need outweigheth blame !
Thine ills, sin wrought, I soothe and, lest thou fall,
With thy dead heaviness my beast shall bend
Unto the refuge where thy soul shall mend."

THE PARABLE OF THE VINE

O LIFE, thou fruitful and eternal Vine
Deep-rooted in the heart of Mystery !

Unnumbered worlds are branches but of thee
Whose rightful vintage is the heavenly wine,
The nectar nourishing a godly line.

And yet, surpassing strange ! thy yield can be
Mere emptiness, or all perversity.

This known, the Master saith, “Ye all are Mine,
Such branches being as your wine shall prove,
Or barren things the which shall God remove.

Whoso is fruitful purging maketh pure :
Unfruitfulness in nowise can endure.

Hateful in presence and in very name,
Cast it to rubbish and consuming flame !”

LOVE-WISDOM

"Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes."

'T IS thy conceit that knowledge guideth thee
To that one place where Wisdom doth abide,
Life's hidden Heart, its central Mystery.

Thereto Love leadeth, Love alone; but pride
Of knowledge doometh to the dark and small
Thy soul self-hindered from the shining sphere.
So she, deluded, blind, ignores the All;

Love-Wisdom round about her, far but near.
In that pure Love the babe well typifies,
That Wisdom just beneath the straining eye
Of him deemed prudent, and the worldly wise,
Is found the seeking of the humble High.
Why search the sea? Why deeply dig the mine?
Thy wealth is gathered to that heart of thine.

THE PARABLE OF THE LEAVEN

O MIND ! O Love ! O Life ! Thou Father One !
High-ruling and down-reaching only Power !

Great God Triune who doth all worlds endower ;
Even this thy humblest Mind-born, Love-born son !
Lo, when the Word vibrated, and 'twas done,

Thou leaven wast, and, always, since that hour,

In worlds Thou hidest, therefore shall they tower
Unto the kingdom ere all time has run.

O mind ! O love ! O life ! Thou man on earth !

Debased, debased, and yet a deathless thing !

The threefold enters, for thy leavening,
Thyself threefold as all that gave thee birth.

Far as God's reach, Himself shall leaven be,

Lifting the creature from mortality.

DIVINE HEALING

"Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils."

WHEN Jesus, Master of Compassion, spake,
Straightway the twelve on mercy's mission went
Self-seeking never, but with love-intent.
Abjuring self, for their high calling's sake,
That profit scorning which the worldly take,
Each so became God's faithful instrument,
A purest purpose with the God-power blent
When He the bonds of mortal pain did break.

If Jesus once again command think ye
A mortal creature should exact the fee
God being healer? Ah, what common greed!
What sophistry! What shallow self-deceit
That so one gain that plenty, mortal sweet,
Unto the covetous heart a loss indeed!

THE LAST REVIEW

May 24, 1865

UNFURLED to-day the flag of triumph waves ;
For final victory it floateth free.

Teller of finished war ; bright badge of peace ;
Sweet pledge of union, every star restored,
On roofs, the loftiest, it proud proclaims
The loyal hour of celebration due.

Ye hosts that bivouaced by the capitol !
Armies of Georgia and the Tennessee !
Defenders ! Vindicators ! Glory winners
On southern and on western fields renowned !
Awakened why ere yet the bugle bade ?
No powder scent was in the early air,
The smoke has lifted, and the thunder sleeps ;
For mercy suing lies the broken foe,
And ye, as ready as in war, forgive.
Encampers round the city of our pride !
Proved rank and file of Sherman's doughty band !
Those banners waving mean ye mass and march ;
These roomy avenues await your tread,
Their eager multitudes your last review.

Hark ! 'tis the war-drum's reminiscent roll ;
The swell of brass, the cornet's piercing call,
The trombone's tune heroic, and the shout
Of fervor waxing as in view the wide
And solid phalanx moves majestic yon.
With tread athletic, firm, of tough campaigners,
Draw near ye sun-tanned ! Show the scars ye won,
Proud battle-marks by beauty never scorned.
Show all that tells the hero hailed of men,

Beloved of women ; aye, the bravest brave
Our pulses stirring and our breasts to-day.

The mettled chargers ! How they champ and fret,
Impatient for the guns, the cannonade,
The tumult of the battle-turning hour !
The bayonets, dread reminders of the charge,
Shun now the hearts of fratricidal foes.
Those proven swords, deep-dyed but yesterday,
Flash naught of menace 'neath the staring sun.
Those prompting bugles, winding not the war,
In proud, commemorative halls shall hang.
Inflaming drums that urged the conquering van !
Retreat has whirred reluctant in your strokes,
And oft your muffled throbbing mourned the dead.
Ye polished brazen tubes whose pitiless mouths
Have belched destruction through the checked assault ;
Wheel on in silence ! Let your throats be dumb !
In silence moving, seek no scenes of blood
Ye gunners trained in all your direful task !
Ye flags of battle never trailed in dust,
But onward, onward, onward borne till set
O'er conquered ramparts high ! With grief we mark,
With grief, each crimson stain, reminder sole —
Save deathless fame — of bearers fallen ! Now,
Like theirs, your dedicated work is done ;
A nation's knee of homage bends indeed
As through your tatters mourneth soft the wind.

Soldiers immune, escaped the death of fields !
You moving wall ! Resistless avalanche
That rolled with Sherman to the Georgian strand !
Ye thousands, tens of thousands, tramping 'neath

The festal hangings of this holiday !
Better your faded blue, a beauty more
Than flowers the hand of Love is flinging ; yea,
More royal seeming its dear, patriot hue
Than purple splendor of the Tyrian years.
With mein most martial, steady now ye ranks !
Behold, the moment tense, the moment proud,
The moment of all moments cometh ! There
He sits ! your chief with brow scarce eased of care,
And eyes of vigil, thankful eyes though sad
With dreaming down the weary past. Alas !
From his just place another looks ! another !
Not his the pen that signed the slave's release
Making yon ample and historic dome
The symbol of a larger liberty.

With Vicksburg sieged and fallen, in the rear,
And Chattanooga's rough campaigning done,
Atlanta prize of war, Savannah yours,
The Carolina days indeed behind,
And all that prompts the hostile hand to hand,
Henceforth behold in retrospect this seat
Of rule and centered power, the peopled ways,
The cheering multitudes, the gay festoons,
The banners flying, and the garlands flung.
Leave now the side by side of comrades proved
In camp and bivouac, victory, repulse !
Leave now the tall-domed capitol, the chief
Of armies, navies, him the martyred king —
Uncrowned of Earth—down-looking from the heavens !

All this a memory grown of martial times,
Move on into the civic walks of peace !

Its duties, trials, real and stern as any,
Shall discipline each day the warrior's heart.
Move on to all that makes the citizen ;
To all that makes a happy, prosperous nation !
Move on ; move on to suffer self-defeat
Should e'er the soldier waver in your breast !

A SONG OF LABOR

THE Earth from her fullness of blessing,
 predestined for man,
Made ready the prizes of labor ere Eden began.
No Eden to thrive without keeping would
 Wisdom ordain ;
No garden to idlers free-giving what labor
 should gain.

By labor the body hath living, by labor the
 soul
Whose Author, by labor unceasing, preserveth
 the whole.
An earning, more sweet to his mouth than
 unmerited bread,
With sweat of his brow yet upon him, man
 eateth instead.

When forth to the ground and its tilling, God
 drove from the gate
The fallen midst pleasure and plenty, they
 sorrowed at fate ;
Then strengthened their hearts unto toil, unto
 labor indeed,
As yet must the sons of far Adam, his laboring
 seed.

Men turned the thick sod of the meadow, nor
 knew of the plow;
With wood and with stone was the digging ;
 rude seemeth it now.

At length, for the saving of sinews, they tore
from the hill,
And smelted and hammered the iron, a plow
for us still.

The bullock could draw, and the horse proved
a need-serving thing ;
The ass and the camel were bearers, but man,
he was king.
The paddle was plied on the river, the sail and
the oar
Returned, with the weight of much getting, the
ship to the shore.

And therefore with joy of possession, man's toil
did increase ;
High-dreaming of labors unnumbered, he
dreamed without cease.
To dream and to do was he shapen from more
than the dust ;
Not dreaming, not doing, he dieth all eaten of
rust.

Men builded them cities and dwellings ; cour-
ageous they wrought ;
With stone and with brick they engirt them
for this was their thought,
“ The others with wealth we have gotten their
coffers would fill ;
A lusting for riches upon them, they plan but
our ill.”

Soon, soon came the seige and the sacking, and
labor was lost.

Defenses down-battered to ruin, the toil and
the cost
Quick-leading to smoke and to slaughter, O
why trouble more !
Arise ! 'tis your birthright to labor. Be men
as before !

And thus, down the ages, the ring of the spirits
clear cry !
The spirit of Love, stern compeller, drives low
unto high.
We think of the place of our fathers, with pity
we think,
"Though dwarfish they groped in a hollow,
we gaze from the brink."

Alas for our pride ! From some peak the bold
climbers will say,
"The span of your vision seems short unto
blindness to-day.
You talked with the sea-sundered nations ; we
ask of the stars
To teach us save what, from their searching,
the Infinite bars.

"Weak wings for precarious flight took your
hazarding few ;
We float where the cloud floats, well-shaming
the winds that pursue.
We lift to the soft, lulling voyage when the
east is unfurled ;
We traverse the pole, the equator, the roof of
the world.

“We skim the wide regions of fruitage from
desert reclaimed
By Labor the God-serving, man-serving; Labor
the famed.
He ploughs the arenas of battle ; he sows where
they fought
When neighbor would turn upon neighbor by
passion distraught.

“We frown upon such as incline to luxurious
ease,
The pampered, the proud, and the slothful.
Our hive is for bees.
We gather in one common storing, and share
what we earn
That never to rancor and envy the hearts of
us turn.

“We break not the coal from the strata, the
Earth’s buried store,
A mine and a use unto peoples who labored
of yore.
Why kindle bituminous flame, or the wood
flame instead,
While daily the huge cosmic dynamo flames
overhead ?

“The axman must plant when he felleth the
good forest tree ;
From creatures that raven and trouble its
shadows are free.
There roam our brute brothers unrisen to
man’s elder line,
Our kin through a bond, all-inclusive, that
sages define.

“How faithful the alchemist, lighting his
crucible flame !
How faithful replenishing ever though joy
never came !
We prove him a prophet dispraised, one who
died without sight
Save that to the prophet God-granted, a glimpse
of the light.

“Why groweth the seed to its kind the good
reason we show ;
The seed that continues the kingdom of high
or of low.
How kingdoms would mix to confusion ! but
Nature foresaw.
The cause we expound of their thwarting, the
deep-hidden law.

“Prepared for our mightiest doing, is harnessed
the sun ;
Behold ! from the ultimate atom a marvel is
won.
How crawled on the highways the horseless,
your chariot pride,
Till we, the great planet-subduers, were ready
to ride.

“Our ships, the unsinkable sailors by storm
never veered,
Are fearing the fury of ocean as zephyrs are
feared.
We steer 'neath the sweep of his waters
through every zone ;
We seek in the midmost sea cave lest a thing
be unknown.”

"We live as our fathers have lived, but we
double their years;
The plagues of the body we banish, the causes
of tears;
Our faith wholly merged in foreknowledge,
life's riddle we know;
Let dust be our doom, we despair not;
undying we go."

The Earth with her fullness of blessing, pre-
destined for man,
Made ready the prizes of labor ere Eden
began;
And on to the latest high glory her tribes shall
attain,
The children of men will be telling what labor
doth gain.

KING EDWARD

THE Earth has passed her morning time,
The fever of her youth abates,
A calm is coming to her prime ;
God speed the promise man awaits !

The Earth grows wiser till the flame
Of kindled and rekindled strife
To her is hateful, and war's name
Is coupled with the savage life.

She calls her chiefest, as of old,
But bids them, choosing, shun the sword.
She half disdains the warrior mould
Where men were shapen at her word.

The crowned is but her steward high
On whom may royal wisdom wait
That, looming in the public eye,
He merit blessing more than hate !

Loved King ; once filling empire's throne !
The olive to thy heart was dear ;
For thee a people make their moan,
And drops the universal tear.

The realms abroad, and every isle,
Have known a reign so mild and just
That sovereign Edward seemed, the while,
A servant faithful to his trust.

His brief and busy rule is done ;
How swift his orb ! we sadly say ;
But deeds, well ended as begun,
Were more the measure of his day.

To smooth all differings ere the stroke
That leads to many, was his gift ;
To quench disaster ere the smoke
That spreads alarm, could skyward lift.

From Dover cliff to Calais shore
Fly auguries of war's decrease
And Agincourt, and Crécy's roar,
Have sunk to wooing words of peace.

No more those jealousies, accursed,
Which shook Sebastopol, return ;
Of hate no more such hot outburst
To Europe's very heart shall burn,

For he, who did no gauntlet fling,
Would have the nations nearer one.
He showed the purpose of a king
As should Victoria's royal son.

A man, and then a monarch, he,
Requiring all of deference due,
Craved naught for Edward ; place must be
That worthy mountain, well in view,

Where England's glory gilds the crest,
And Australasia pours her light,
And Canada's high star doth rest,
And India's beam is orient bright.

Though war lords prate of right divine,
The people did through Edward rule.
Who vaunts the privilege of line
Doth babble even as the fool.

The praise of kings our land has heard
Though kingless save as God doth crown,
But "brother" was a binding word
Ere kings had gotten their renown.

We greeted once the generous youth ;
The prince unto our hearts came nigh ;
We mourn the king, but ah, in truth,
The all-death-sundered brother tie.

O'er Britain may no cloud be drawn
Save that of sorrow for her head !
That cloud shall brighten as the morn
For lo, he joins the risen dead !







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